ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

SOUTH ALABAMA,

HELD WITH

THE MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH,

MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA, 1857.

MOBILE:
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1857.

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

OF

SOUTH ALABAMA.

The thirty-seventh Anniversary of this body convened with the Mount Pleasant Church, Marengo county, commencing on Saturday, October 3d, 1857.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder L. Parks, from the First Epistle General of Peter, 5th Chap., 1st and 2d Verses.

After a recess for refreshment, the delegates were called to order by the Moderator of the last Association, who led in devotional exercises.

The former Clerk being absent, brother R. D. Marshall acted as Clerk, pro tem.

The Association now being organized, at the request of the Moderator, brethren Wm. J. Parker and J. W. Smith read the Letters from the Churches, which represented the following to be the Delegates, State of the Churches, &c.:

Only the names of the delegates in attendance are printed in the Minutes.

	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	POST-OFFICES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Rec'd by Baptism	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Dead	No. in Fellowship	Sabbath Meetings	Contributions for Minutes.	Contribution for Domestic Missions.	Contribution for B. B. and C. Society.	Pastor's Names.
1st Dist.	Ebenezer	Clark	Grove Hill	R. M. Thomas	15	6	..	12	..	3	81	2	2 00	....	....	R. M. Thomas
	Ulconush	Clark	Coffeeville	J. Scruggs, N. Malone, T. B. Pace	7	..	1	13	2	1	258	2	6 00	....	....	J. G. Williams
	Horeb	Clark	Grove Hill	J. L. Megginson	4	7	..	7	..	1	65	..	2 50	....	....	Hiram Creighton.
	Salem	Clark	Grove Hill	A. J. Benson	5	..	..	..	3	1	79	2	4 00	....	....	L. L. Dewitt
	Rockville	Clark	Jackson	Letter received, but no Delegate	17	..	..	..	..	..	17	4	1 00	4 00	....	N. Goodwin
	Amity	Clark	Suggsville	Letter received, but no Delegate	..	3	..	2	2	1	50	..	2 50	....	....	N. Goodwin
	Magnolia	Clark	Jackson	A. H. Dubose	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	3	1 50	....	....	Hiram Creighton.
	Mount Gilead	Clark	Suggsville	E. B. Gwinn	9	..	1	..	..	..	35	2	1 25	....	....	N. Goodwin
	Hopewell	Clark	Grove Hill	Isaiah Roberts, Alexander Pugh	7	..	..	..	..	..	28	1	1 00	1 25	....	Wm. Hill
2d Dist.	Nanafalia	Marengo	Nanafalia	Wm. G. Williams, H. Hawkins	37	3	2	11	2	3	174	3	5 00	14 15	....	N. Smith
	Union	Marengo	Sweet Water	J. G. Williams, R. D Marshall, S. S. Ethridge.	33	1	3	22	4	2	167	1	5 00	....	....	J. G. Williams
	Elim	Clark	Choctaw Corner	John Dickson	2	..	..	1	3	..	56	1	2 50	3 60	....	L. L. Dewitt
	New Hope	Clark	Choctaw Corner	L. L. Dewitt, B. C. Foster, D. Bird	3	5	..	5	3	1	155	3	4 50	10 70	....	L. L. Dewitt
	Friendship	Marengo	Hampden	R Hickson	14	14	..	6	1	2	83	2	2 50	....	1 00	A. Sale
	Shiloh	Marengo	Shiloh	R. H. Tucker, G. E. Jones, C. J. Miles	13	2	..	11	3	..	179	3	3 00	1 00	....	H. Adams
	Pisgah	Wilcox	Bethel	H. Adams, L. D. Godbold	11	..	1	5	5	..	92	3	3 00	6 37	7 60	N. Goodwin
	Enon	Wilcox	Pine Hill	F. Finley	..	..	2	5	..	5	53	1	2 50	....	6 10	A. Sale
	Forest Spring	Marengo	Mervin	R. B. Armstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Liberty	Marengo	Bashi	J. Cabiniss, N. Ethridge, W. F Herrin	2	..	..	..	1	2	47	4	2 00	15 20	....	A. A. Connella
	Canaan	Wilcox	Clifton	J. Dunoway	36	12	1	..	..	1	89	4	4 30	44 55	....	L. L. Dewitt
3d Dist.	Linden	Marengo	....	Not Represented	12	2	1	..	3	2	97	4	2 00	....	....	H Adams
	Mount Pleasant	Marengo	Jefferson	W. J. Parker, J. I. Westbrook, J. W. Smith	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Spring Hill	Marengo	Spring Hill	L. B. Lane, J. Daughdrill	1	1	..	5	1	2	97	2	3 00	....	....	W. J. Parker
	Dayton	Marengo	....	Not Represented	..	..	..	..	..	..	204	..	1 00	....	....	..
	Providence	Marengo	Spring Hill	S. Madison, B. F. Parker, W. Walston	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fellowship	Marengo	Demopolis	Lewis Simmons, J. H Armstrong	..	..	..	2	6	1	82	4	3 00	5 00	5 00	W. J. Parker
	Bethel	Marengo	McKinly	John Talbert, W. F. Perkins	5	5	..	2	..	..	68	3	2 00	....	7 50	W. J. Parker
4th Dist.	Hebron	Perry	Liberty Hill	Jeremiah Reeves	6	7	1	5	1	..	131	..	3 00	13 00	....	F. C. Lowry
	Concord	Dallas	Liberty Hill	A Talbert, W. Matthews	2	..	..	1	..	..	68	..	1 00	....	....	L. L. Fox
	Boiling Spring	Wilcox	McKinly	L. Parks, John Kelly, W. Fluker	..	..	..	..	..	..	139	3	1 50	2 50	2 50	Levi Parks
	Poplar Spring	Wilcox	Rehoboth	Letter received, but no Delegate	20	4	1	4	1	1	85	4	3 00	15 00	....	Levi Parks
					4	3	..	..	..	..	12	..	1 00	....	....	J. Reeves
					281	78	14	103	38	32	2711		76 55	96 32	29 70	

INDIAN MISSIONS.—Spring Hill $5—Fellowship $5—Concord $2 50—Total, $12 50 contributed.
FOREIGN MISSIONS.—Fellowship Church contributed $3.

On motion, the following brethren were recognized as Delegates: E. B. Gwinn, from Amity; S. S. Ethridge, from Union; H. Hawkins, from Nanafalia.

The names of the Delegates having been ascertained, the body proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the re-election of L. Parks, Moderator, and R. D. Marshall, Clerk.

The Moderator then gave the usual invitation to visiting brethren to take seats with us, when brethren J. G. Robertson and Wm. M. High, from the Bigby Association, came forward and presented us with a package of Minutes. He also gave an opportunity to Churches petitioning for membership in this body, and the Hopewell Church was received.

The following Committees, to report at this meeting, were appointed:

To arrange the Preaching.—Ausil Talbert, L. D. Godbold, N. Malone, and Deacons of this Church.

On Finance.—B. C. Foster, L. B. Lane and William G. Williams.

On Documents and Requests.—John G. Williams, John Cabiniss and J. W. Smith.

On Nominations.—S. Madison, Green E. Jones and John Kelly.

On Correspondence.—J. Reeves, R. Hickson and Jesse Scruggs.

The Committee to Digest the Letters was abandoned.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Monday Morning. Prayer by brother Reeves.

Lord's Day, October 4th, 1857.

Pursuant to previous appointment, Elder John Talbert delivered the Missionary Sermon to a very large and attentive congregation; after which, brother Thomas closed the morning services, and a collection was taken up amounting to $54 05, to be appropriated in the bounds of the Bethel Association.

After recess, Elder L. Parks preached, and L. L. Dewitt closed, and much interest was manifested.

The colored population were also preached to at the other church by brethren Reeves and Williams.

Monday Morning, October 5th.

The Moderator renewed the invitation to visiting brethren to take seats with us, and Elders A. A. Connella and J. C. Foster came forward and did so.

Resolved, That the amount collected on Lord's Day, of $54 05 be equally divided between the Domestic Board, at Marion, Alabama, and the B. B. and C. Society of the Bethel Association.

Resolved, That the B. B. and C. Society hold their anniversary meeting immediately after recess.

Received a package of Minutes from the Alabama Association, but no Messenger.

The Roll was then called and corrected.

The Report of the Executive Board was called for, received and adopted.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

FIRST MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1857.

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your Executive Board, appointed at your last meeting, beg leave to report their doings:—

At our first meeting, on 10th January, we agreed to adopt the plan of the last Board as to the labors of our Missionaries. We also agreed to continue brother J. Reeves Missionary to the Blacks by his not becoming chargeable to our Board. We wrote to the Board at Marion for their part of his salary; but they refused to help, on account of their helping this Mission three years. We also agreed to continue brother L. L. Dewitt in the same field, and any other that he could supply at One Dollar and Fifty cents per day. We also agreed to continue brother N. Goodwin in his field of labor, allowing him the same. We further agreed to give brother J. P. Vaughan a field of labor, if any convenient, and allow him the same pay as the others. We further agreed to give brother R. M. Thomas the liberty of supplying any destitution within his reach, and allow him the same pay as the others. We wrote to them all, informing them of their appointments, and requesting them to report at our next meeting, and they failed to do so.

SECOND MEETING, MARCH 21, 1857.

Having no report from our Missionaries, we had no business from our last meeting to act upon. We agreed to request brother John Talbert to supply a destitution in the Post Oak country, below McKinley. We appointed our third meeting at Shiloh, on the 30th of May, and failed to get a quorum.

THIRD MEETING, OCTOBER 3, 1857.

Brother L. L. Dewitt reported fifty-four days service, baptized fifty-nine, and coustituted one Church, with twenty-four members; also one house of worship built in his field of labor.

Received brother C. J. Miles' report: Labored thirty-six days, for which the Board agreed to allow him the same pay as the other Missionaries.

Brother Talbert reports six days labor in the field appointed him by the Board.

Brother R. M. Thomas reported twenty-nine days service, baptized fifteen, received one not baptized, two by letter; obtained thirteen subscribers to the S. W. Baptist; reports one house of Worship built; religious prospects improving in all his congregations, and a great demand for religious books, especially the Bible.

Brother J. P. Vaughan reported eleven days' service in his field of labor, and the Board has paid them up according to agreement.

The Board submit the report of Brother Reeves, and ask that it be appended to their report and be printed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. MADISON, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY TO THE BLACKS.

SEPT. 28, 1857.—*To the Executive Board of the Bethel Baptist Association:*

BELOVED BRETHREN—I will now present to you a condensed report of my labors among the Blacks the present year. Traveled 1508 miles—preached 79 sermons—delivered 30 exhortations—baptized 27 candidates—made 107 family visits—for which I have received from A. Homes $100; from Major Gray $50; from B. Bennett $10, and collected at the District meeting, at Hebron Church, $5 85; and $26 30 from Mr. Shepherd; and $10 given by the Hebron Church, at the District meeting, held with

said Church, amounting in all to $202 15. I have had six stations, one of which was Poplar Spring Church, which I supplied as Pastor. This Church was without a pastor—as such, I considered it Missionary ground during the months of July, August and September. I spent 45 days in traveling and preaching to the whites, (not included in the above report,) during which time I traveled 500 miles—made 30 family visits—preached 45 sermons—delivered 10 exhortations—baptizing 10 candidates, and received of the Pisgah Church $6—attended 6 protracted meetings and 20 prayer meetings—in most of them the Lord was present to bless, and many precious souls were added to the Church.

The field of labor among the blacks is encouraging; no people are more attentive to the Word of Life, and none seem to feel more under its influence than they do. May the Lord bless our labors among them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. REEVES, Missionary to the Blacks.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee beg leave to say, that having been appointed to do the work of a committee raised a year ago, we are unprepared to do more than give a mere synopsis of the subject.

We are happy to say that a number of our Churches have been blessed, and many precious souls have been brought from darkness into the glorious light and liberty of God's children. 256 have been added to the Churches of our body during the past Associational year. To God be all the glory. May the great Head of the Church give our pastors and members increased love to Him and each other, and inspire them with more zeal in his service, that we may all strive after higher attainments in piety and knowledge; that thereby our pastors may increase in efficiency in their sacred calling, and the laity prove to be their co-laborers in the work of evangelization; then will God's name be glorified and sinners saved.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSIONS OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Beloved Brethren:—Your Committee on the Missions of the Southern Convention have had the same under review, and report the following as the result of their investigations: In the Domestic Department, there are Missionaries in nearly all the Southern States, from whose letters and reports it is evident that the God of Missions is blessing their well-meant efforts to enlarge their spiritual reign. This is truly encouraging to friendship of this sublime enterprise. We also perceive that there is an increased demand for men and means, as the field widens and whitens. Who will labor? Who will furnish the means of support? God will, by His providence, furnish answers to these questions. Let each recipient of his mercy be ready to act as a faithful steward of the manifold graces of God; let us be more prayerful and liberal than in days past, and the blessings of God will doubtless attend us. To promote this desirable object, we suggest the propriety of Pastors bringing the claims of this field before the Churches and congregations, and bring them to appropriate action.

Indian Missions.—In this department of benevolent operation, we see the power and goodness of God evidently manifested in the number and devotedness of the laborers, and in the liberality of Baptists in supporting them, (this, it is true, should be greater,) and especially in their winning souls to Christ. The problem is solved—can the wild man be tamed? he can! he is tamed, and sits in his right mind at the feet of the Saviour. To God be all the glory. The harvest already ripens in this field, strikingly illustrates this Bible truth, that "In due season we shall reap if we faint not," and indicates earnest, prayerful and liberal efforts for the red man of the forest.

The Colored Mission.—It is a field of great promise, and of sufficient magnitude to call forth the sympathies, prayers and contributions of all Southern Christians and philanthropists. We think that it will be seen by comparison, that no field has yielded a greater crop in proportion to labor bestowed, than this. We hope the time is hastening when the colored man's spiritual interest will be regarded according to its magnitude, and corresponding efforts be put forth for its promotion.

Foreign Missions.—The few stations in foreign lands are as bright spots surrounded by thick darkness; but God is with them and blessing their toils in converting the idolator from his vanities to the worship of the living God. It is quite evident from the letters sent us by our Missionaries in China, Africa and Europe, that our labor in the "Lord is not in vain." The African Mission, especially, is wonderfully blessed. The political ruptures in China are at this time in the way of Missionary success; but it is hoped that God will overrule them, and cause them to terminate favorably to the Christian enlightenment of that Empire. We would be pleased to give many extracts from the letters to which we have alluded, but this would swell this report to an objectionable size; but we will give one from brother C. B. Cabiniss, in China—after describing the Godess of Mercy, he says, "In the rear of this Godess, fronting the back door, is standing an image, the number of whose hands I attempted to count, but gave up in despair; they are crowded together on each like the feathers on birds' wings, and spread out on each side in the shape of a Chinese fan. Looking at it awhile, I determined to make another attempt, and finally counted seven hundred and thirty hands. These are intended to represent the manifold power of the idol. To deliver them from such darkness, how many hands should be active, and how many hearts should be engaged in prayer for their delivery. Let every Christian say I will take stock in this glorious enterprise, which has for its end the glory of God in the salvation of our race."

We recommend ministers and hearers to ask themselves, in fear of the Lord, this question in reference to Missions—Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? and then search the scriptures for the answer, and act accordingly, and God will bless the obedient. All who desire further information on this subject are advised to take the Home and Foreign Journal and the Commission. Respectfully submitted. J. REEVES, Chairman.

REPORT ON THE BIBLE AND PUBLICATION CAUSES.

The Committee on the Bible and Publication Cause, beg leave to make the following report:

That, for the want of information, they are not prepared to make anything like a definite report on the above named subjects. They would express, however, their gratification on the ground of what has already been done by these societies; but believing that much more might be done, they would, in a brotherly way, recommend to the Churches comprising this Association, the adoption of such means (if such can be) as will more successfully aid these societies in accomplishing the objects proposed, which are to publish and circulate the Bible and our denominational books, a goodly number of which are being published by the Southern Baptist Publication Society; and also by the South-Western Publishing House, located in Nashville, under the direction of brother J. R. Graves and others. Your Committee regrets to state that there are so many of our brethren and friends destitute of a supply of our denominational books, although we have had a society (the Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society) in our Association for several years past—your Committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1st. That we believe the circulation of denominational books to be a very successful way of convincing others of the consistency of our faith and practice with the Scriptures.

2d. That our brethren labor diligently to procure for themselves (and solicit others to do so) such religious literature.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. GOODWIN, Cairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee, appointed at your last annual meeting, to report on Intemperance, feel much at a loss how to lay the subject before your body in such a manner as to call the attention of the Church and wake up a deeper feeling than has been felt for the last few years. Since our last meeting, in looking over our bounds, we see that there are some places where advances have been made, and the Temperance reform is in a more healthy condition. It is a well known fact, that just to the extent that the friends of the enterprise relax their efforts to keep the subject up before the people, just to that extent will the soul destroyer make his advances and nerve the enemy of good morals to go into the work of destruction and inflict wounds with more deadly weapons, and carry ruin not only into public places of dissipation, but into our legislative halls, Christian Churches, and into family circles. It is painful to see those who were once zealous advocates of total abstinence, now tippling in public dram shops, and other places where the temptation is set upon them; whose countenance and redened eyes tell the woful tale that they have been bitten by the serpent, whose poisonous influence is vibrating through every vein in the whole system. This proves one of two things—that they have learned to abstain from intoxicating drink is wrong: or, that the habit has become so deeply fixed and seated in the appetite that they have not moral courage enough to resist the temptation. If this be so, it only presents us with a stronger and deeper motive to guard against forming the habit. The experience of the past proves very clearly that few, very few, who have formed the habit of drinking to excess have been thoroughly reclaimed; many have been partially reformed, and yield to the tempter and die drunkards. If it was necessary, we would point out some of the evil tendencies and ruinous consequences; but surely all are convinced, who would not rather yield to appetite than reason or the cries of the sufferer. There is another thing which clearly demonstrates the power of habit, and shows the undying hold which it has upon the appetite, which outweighs reason and good sense, the wants of their family, and even the fear of death and judgment—and that is the fact, that there are poisonous ingredients in much of the spirituous liquors made of late, although it is believed to be true. Many are yet pouring down the poisonous and fiery liquid as though they were determined to satisfy the craving, burning appetite fearless of consequences. We would affectionately advise all our Churches to see to it, that their Churches are not nurseries for intemperance, by indulging in the use of liquors as a beverage, and would recommend to the Churches the propriety of having at least two sermons in the course of the year preached on the subject, setting forth the blighting influence of intemperance, and the withering effects upon our Churches where and when it is encouraged. We are glad to learn from different portions of our bounds that many of our Churches are waking up to the duty of exercising a more rigid discipline in the Churches.

JOHN TALBERT, Chairman.

The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That the Association hail with joy the unanimity, expressive of our body, that the Churches are generally alive to the importance of discountenancing intemperance in their members.

Resolved, That while we, as an Association, would guard our Churches against passing laws unauthorized by the Word of God, we at the same

time recommend them to deal promptly with their delinquent members, by the rule given in the Scriptures, by which the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work.

The Report on Ministerial Education was then called for.

The Committee having no report to offer, recommended a part of a report on that subject contained in our Minutes of 1854, viz:

DEAR BRETHREN:—While we have our respective gifts, let us remember that we too have an account to render for the use of the talents committed to us. Let us see to it, then, that we dedicate all the energies of our mind unto the great work whereunto we are called, and let us imitate our Divine Master by laboring for the promotion of every object that tends to ameliorate the condition of our race, and advance the interests of our Redeemer's kingdom; and in the discharge of our various duties, let us manifest that love one for another that should characterize co-workers in our Lord's vinyard, ever bearing in mind "That Paul may plant and Apollos water, but God alone gives the increase."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. JACOB PARKER, Chairman.

The Committee on Nominations offered the following:

H. Creighton to preach the Introductory Sermon, N. Goodwin, alternate. Wm. J. Parker to preach the Missionary Sermon, L. L. Dewitt, alternate.

To compose the Executive Board.—E. G. Talbert, W. F. Perkins, John Thomas, Wm. Fluker, A. Talbert.

Treasurer of the Association.—B. C. Foster.

Delegates to the State Convention.—John Talbert, J. Reeves, F. C. Lowry, W. J. Parker, A. Homes, A. A. Connella, L. B. Lane, E. G. Talbert, L. Parks, R. D. Marshall, A. Talbert, J. G. Williams, J. C. Foster.

To the Alabama Association.—J. Reeves, A. Homes, N. Goodwin,

To the Cahaba Association.—L. Parks, A. Talbert, Wm. Fluker.

To Pine Barren.—J. Talbert, A. Sale, H. Adams.

To Bigby River.—A. A. Connella, L. B. Lane, Wm. J. Parker, and L. Simmons.

To Liberty.—Wm. J. Parker, J. I. Westbrook, Wm. Simmons.

To Bethlehem.—H. Creighton, Wm. Hill, H. Adams.

All of which is respectfully submitted and adopted.

S. MADISON, Chairman.

The Moderator then appointed Elder John Talbert to present the claims of the S. W. Baptist before the body, which he did.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, to give the B. B. and C. Society an opportunity of holding their annual meeting.

THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE have had the same under consideration and beg leave to report:—

For Printing Minutes	$ 76	80
" Domestic Missions	157	12
" Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society	53	00
" Indian Missions	12	50
" Foreign Mission, (not designated)	3	00
" Collections on Sabbath	54	05—$356 47

LEVIN B. LANE, Chairman.

P. S.—We are informed by the letter from the Boiling Spring Church, that she had pledged $60 to the fund for Beneficiaries of Howard College, and $400 for the Library of said College.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, Prayer by brother Williams.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Pursuant to adjournment met. Singing and prayer by brother J. I. Westbrook.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee would recommend the Delegates composing the Fourth District to give the Association to Concord Church, as she made special request by letter. We recommend the Association to allow brother J. Reeves nothing for his services rendered to the Poplar Spring Church, as he was not acting by order of the Executive Board.

J. G. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

The TREASURER'S REPORT was received, read and handed to the Auditing Committee, who reported it correct. N. MALONE, Ch'n.

Appointed the following Committees, to report at the next meeting of this body:

On the State of Religion.—John Talbert, E. G. Talbert, F. C. Lowry.

On the Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.—W. J. Parker, J. I. Westbrook, S. Madison.

On our Missionary Operations among the Whites and Blacks.—J. G. Williams, N. Malone and Jesse Scruggs.

Bible and Publication Causes.—J. Reeves, M. G. Pritchett, A. Waters.

Ministerial Education,—Wm. C. Lipscomb, L. B. Lane, E. J. Palmer.

Sabbath Schools.—H. Adams, W. B. Gwinn, John Cabiniss.

On Temperance.—A. A. Connella, L. Simmons, James Daudrill.

The following preamble and resolutions were offered by brother W. J. Parker, viz:

WHEREAS, A considerable effort has been made, and is still being made, to cast odium on the name of our highly esteemed brother, Elder J. R. Graves, Editor of the Tennessee Baptist, published at Nashville, Tennessee, in consequence of his fearless advocacy of Baptist views, which are Bible truths: therefore—

1st. *Resolved*, That this Association heartily approve the course of brother Graves, and bid him God speed in his praiseworthy efforts to suppress error and build up the cause of truth.

2d. *Resolved*, That we endorse the principles set forth *in the old land marks*, "*Rent*," a tract published by Elder J. M. Pendleton, of Kentucky.

3d. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to furnish brother Graves a copy of this preamble and resolutions. and invite him to visit our Association, and preach to our Churches on the distinctive doctrines of our denomination.

These resolutions were taken up and disposed of separately. The 1st was unanimously adopted. After reading the second, quite a lengthy and harmonious discussion followed, after which the yeas and nays were called for, and the vote stood—

Yeas—R. H. Tucker, Green E. Jones, R. Hickson, R B. Armstead, W. F. Herrin, J. Reeves, W. J. Parker, Wm. G. Williams, H. Hawkins, Lewis Simmons, L. J. Stewart, James Daudrill, W. B. Gwinn, A. H. Dubose, J. L. Megginson, N. Malone, Thos. B. Pace, E. Gwinn, H. Adams, J. I. Westbrook—20.

Nays—John Kelly, Wm. Fluker, John Dickson, R. D. Marshall, L. L. Dewitt, B. C. Foster, C. J. Miles, John Cabaniss, N. Ethridge, John Talbert, J. Dunoway, S. Madison, B. T. Parker, R. M. Thomas, M. J. Benson, Jesse Scruggs, Ansel Talbert, Wm. Matthews, Isaiah Roberts, J. L. Pugh, F. Finly—21.

The 3d resolution was adopted, and brethren William J. Parker, J. I. Westbrook and Lewis Simmons the committee to invite bro. Graves, &c.

Brother J. Megginson offered the following:

Resolved, That this body recommend the S. W. Baptist, and the Tennessee Baptist to the favorable consideration and patronage of the Baptist denomination.

Appointed brethren H. Adams, H. Creighton, L. L. Dewitt and James S Dickinson to prepare a short biography of the life of brother Trueheart Tucker, to report at the next meeting of this body.

Ordered, That all the funds for the Convention be sent by bro. Talbert.

Ordered, That the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and receive $35 for his services.

The next Anniversary of this Body will be held with Concord Church, Dallas county, commencing on Saturday before the first Lord's Day in October, 1858.

The Committee on Correspondence offered the following letters:

Letter to the State Convention.	Letter to the Bethlehem Association.
" to Alabama Association.	" to Bigby River "
" to Liberty "	" to Pine Barren "

Respectfully submitted,

J. REEVES, Chairman.

Brother Marshall offered the following:

Resolved, Unanimously, That we tender our thanks to the members of Mount Pleasant Church and the citizens of this village and vicinity for the kind and hospitable manner in which the Association has been entertained.

Brother Daudrill offered a vote of thanks to the Anti-Missioners for the use of their House during this meeting.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the B. B. and C. Society be printed in connection with ours, they paying their proportionable part of the expenses.

The Body then adjourned, to meet with the Concord Church, Dallas county, on Saturday before the 1st Sunday, in October, 1858. After singing, the Moderator prayed, and the delegates repaired to their homes.

LEVI PARKS, Moderator.

R. D. MARSHALL, Clerk.

B. C. FOSTER in Account with the Bethel Baptist Association.

1856. *Home Mission Fund—Received.*

Oct. 6.	Balance on hand at the last Association	$211	69
	Received from Financial Committee of last Association	119	75
	Received from Collection on the Sabbath	37	60
	" from Financial Committee money sent from Horeb	26	55
	" from Financial Committee money sent from Mount Gilead	28	40
	" from Financial Committee for Home Mission to Blacks	4	00
1857.	" from Financial Committee money sent from Boiling Springs	11	30
April 19.	" from District Meeting at Liberty, by brother L. L. Dewitt	24	90
June 16.	" from District Meeting at Ulconush, by brother T. Carter	35	10
July 6.	" from District Meeting at Magnolia, by bro. A. L. Megginson—	13	50
July 28.	" from District Meeting at Canaan, by brothor B. Thomas	4	70
Sept. 28.	" from District Meeting at Liberty, by brother L. L. Dewitt	13	55
	Total amount of this Fund Received	$531	04

1856. *Home Mission Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 6. 1857.	Amount paid brother N. Goodwin by order of the Mission Board	$ 54 00	
Oct 5.	Amount paid brother L. L. Dewitt by order of Mission Board	81 00	
Oct. 5.	Amount paid brother John Talbert by order of the same	9 00	
Oct. 5.	Amount paid brother R. M. Thomas by order of the same	43 50	187 50
	Leaving a balance on hand of this Fund of		$343 54

1856. *Contingent Fund—Received.*

Oct, 6.	Received from Financial Committee of last Associotion	$68 10
	Total amount of this Fund received	$68 10

1856. *Contingent Fund —Disbursed.*

Oct. 6.	Amount paid brother L. C. Foster, for printing Minutes, by order of the last Association	$68 10
	Total amount of this Fund disbursed	$68 10

1856. *Bible Cause Funds—Received.*

Oct. 6. 1857.	Received from Financial Committee of last Association	$14 25
April 19.	Received from District Meeting at Liberty, by brother L. L. Dewitt	6 55
July 28.	Received from District Meeting at Canaan, by brother B. Thomas	12 50
	Total amount of this fund Received	$33 30

1856, *Bible Cause Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 6. 1857.	Amount paid brother W. J. Parker, Secretary of B. B. and C. S., by order of last Association	$13 90
Sept. 19.	Amount paid brother D. Bird, Treasurer Newhope Bible Society	35
	Total amount of this Fund Disbursed	$14 25
	Leaving a balance of this Fund on hand of	$19 05

1856. *African Mission Fund—Received.*

Oct. 6. 1857.	Received from Financial Committee of last Association	$ 25
Sept. 19.	Received from brother D. Bird previously, not mentioned in the last report	25
	Total amount of this Fund received	$ 50

1856. *African Mission Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 6.	Amount paid brother A. L. Collins, by order of last Association	$ 25
	Total amount of this Fund disbursed	$ 25
	Leaving a balance of this Fund on hand of	$ 25

1856. *Association Fund—Received.*

Oct. 6.	A balance on hand at the last Association	$10 00
	Received from Financial Committee of the last Association	2 00
	Total amount of this Fund received	$12 00

1856. *Association Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 6.	Amount paid brother James W. Tucker, by order of last Association	$ 5 25
	Total amount of this Fund disbursed	$ 5 25
	Leaving a balance of this Fund on hand of	$ 6 75

1856. *Indian Mission Fund—Received.*

Oct. 6.	Received from Financial Committee of last Association	$ 4 50
	Total amount of this Fund received	$ 4 50

1856. *Indian Mission Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 6.	Amount paid brother A. L. Collins, by order of last Association	$ 4 50
	Total amount of this Fund disbursed	$ 4 50

All of which is respectfully submitted.

B. C. FOSTER, Treasurer of Bethel Association.

ADDRESS OF THE MINISTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

EDWARD BAPTIST	Dayton	Alabama
A. A. CONNELLA	Spring Hill	Alabama.
WM. JACOB PARKER	Jefferson	Alabama.
F. C. LOWRY	McKinley	Alabama.
JOHN TALBERT	McKinley	Alabama.
J. REEVES	Liberty Hill	Alabama.
N. THOMAS	Pine Hill	Alabama.
H. CREIGHTON	Grove Hill	Alabama.
WM. HILL	Grove Hill	Alabama.
N. GOODWIN	Suggsville	Alabama.
WM. RUSSELL	Coffeeville	Alabama.
J. G. WILLIAMS	Nanafalia	Alabama.
B. W. HERRIN	Pineville	Alabama.
J. C. FOSTER	Grove Hill	Alabama.
L. L. DEWITT	Choctaw Corner	Alabama.
R. HICKSON	Clifton	Alabama.
A. SALE	Bethel	Alabama.
J. P. VAUGHAN	Camden	Alabama.
HUGER ADAMS	Pine Hill	Alabama.
J. GREEN	Shiloh	Alabama.
R. M. THOMAS	Bethel	Alabama.

LICENTIATES.

T. H. BALL	Jackson	Alabama.
A. J. STRINGER	Jackson	Alabama.
JOHN I. WESTBROOK	Jefferson	Alabama.

STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear the Letters from the Churches, and make out the Roll.
2. Elect a Moderator and Clerk.
3. Extend the usual invitation to brethren.
4. Call for Petitions from Churches wishing to unite.
5. Appoint the following Committees, to report during the session.
    1. To arrange the preaching.
    2. On Finance and Auditing.
    3. On Documents and Requests,
    4. On Nominations.
    5. On Correspondence, and on any other subject that may require the labors of a committee during the session.
6. Call for Correspondence.
7. Have the Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call and correct the Roll.
9. Hear the Annual Report of the Executive Board, and refer it to such Committee or Committees as may be suitable.
10. Call for the Minutes of the District Meetings, and refer them to the Committee on Document and Requests.
11. Hear the Treasurer's Annual Report, and refer it to the Committee on Finance and auditing.
12. Call for reports of Committees in the order of their appointment.
13. Give the necessary instructions about appropriating the funds.
14. Appoint Committees to report at the next session on the following subjects:
    1. On the State of Religion.
    2. On the Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.
    3. On our Missionary operations among the Whites and Blacks.
    4. On the Bible and Publication Causes.
    5. On Ministerial Education.
    6. On Sabbath Schools.
    7. On Temperance.
15. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions,
16. Make arrangements for printing and distributing the Minutes.
17. Correct the Minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BETHEL BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR SOCIETY.

The Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society met at Jefferson, in Marengo county, October, 1857, and was called to order by the President, J. Talbert.

The following delegates from Churches were in attendance, viz:

From Boiling Spring—John Kelly, W. Fluker. *From Pisgah*—H. Adams. *From Friendship*—Brother Hixon. *From Fellowship*—Lewis Simmons. *From Providence*—S. Madison.

The following persons became Annual Members by the payment of One Dollar each, viz: J. Dunaway, R. M. Thomas, A. Talbert, W. B. Gwinn, W. C. Lipscomb, L. L. Dewitt, B. Reed, J. H. Armstrong, Jesse Scruggs, John Kelly, H. Robinson, W. G. Williams, Robert Armstead, C. J. Miles, B. T. Parker, S. Madison, J. Reeves, W. Walston, G. E. Jones, W. L. Kelly, Sarah Simmons, Mary Westbrook, Miss E. Daughdrill, — Scranage, (and L. B. Lane paid $2:50, R. H. Tucker $2, and J. Daughdrill 50 cents) A. A. Connella, Mary Finch, Mrs. Sarah Connella, Mrs. T. Aldridge, R. D. Marshall, John Daughdrill, W. Simmons, Lewis Simmons, J. I. Westbrook.

The Society then elected John Talbert, President, and W. Jacob Parker, Secretary.

Brethren S. Madison, Westbrook and Daughdrill were appointed to nominate balance of Officers.

The Board of Managers presented their report, which was approved.—See Appendix A.

The Treasurer presented his report, which was adopted. See appendix C.

The following brethren were appointed delegates to the Alabama Bible Society, to meet at Taladega, in November next, viz: L. B. Lane, L. Parks, J. Talbert, and W. Jacob Parker; and $25 were voted to Alabama Bible Society.

The Committee on Nominations recommended the acting Board of Managers, viz: John I. Westbrook, W. L. Kelly, W. Simmons, John Daughdrill and W. Jacob Parker; and for Treasurer, Lewis Simmons.

For Vice Presidents—1st District—R. M. Thomas. 2d District—John G. Williams. 3d District—A. A. Connella. 4th District—Levi Parks.—Which nomination was confirmed.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to have the Constitution of our Society printed with these Minutes. Also, to request the Bethel Association to publish our Minutes in connection with theirs, and we pay our proportion of the expense.

All unfinished business was referred to the Board of Managers, and the Society adjourned, to meet with the Bethel Association at Concord Church, in Dallas county, in October, 1858.

JOHN TALBERT, President.

W. JACOB PARKER, Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

Report o[f] the Executive Board of the B. B. and C. Society.

Your Board beg leave to state, that in April last, they employed brother S. Madison to engage in the distribution of Bibles and religious books within the bounds of the Bethel Association, at a salary of thirty dollars per month, exclusive of travelling expenses, and brother Madison to furnish his own horse and vehicle. Brother Madison, however, did not enter on the discharge of his engagement until late in June; since which time he has traveled three and a half months, and sold Bibles and religious books to the amount of $387 13; and during the same time our Depository Agents has sold $126 97—making an aggregate of sales amounting to $514 10; and there is now on hand books to the amount of between one hundred and seventy-five and two hundred dollars, including bill just received—on which we are due in Charleston $23 03. We are also due brother Madison, for services rendered, $7 27—having paid him $107 13.

Your Board have labored under a difficulty from the smallness of the means at their disposal, but hope the Pastors of the Churches will lay the claims of our Society before the Church, and urge a liberal contribution, to enable us to enter more largely and efficiently upon the work contemplated in our organization, viz: the supplying of every family within the bounds of the Bethel Association with the Word of Life, and a sound religious literature. All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. JACOB PARKER, Secretary of the Board.

APPENDIX C.

Lewis Simmons, in account with the Bethel B. and C. Society:

1856.		DR.	
Oct.	5.	Rec'd of I. B. Bruce, former Treas., by W. J. Parker	$153 55
		From Annual Members at Pisgah, by W. J. Parker	20 00
		From B. C. Foster	13 95
Dec.	15.	From A. Connella	70 10
1857.			
June	30.	From J. Autrey	15 50
		From collection at Shiloh	5 05
July	21.	From W. J. Parker on sale of Books	70 00
		From Friendship Church	1 80
Aug.	3.	On Books sold by W. Mason	14 75
Aug.	14.	On " " by S. Madison	100 05
Sep.	7.	On " " by "	60 00
Sep.	29.	On " " by "	50 00
Sep.	29.	On " " by W. Jacob Parker	112 22
Oct.	3.	On W. Simmons, W. L. Kelly, J. I. Westbrook, J. Daughdrill, annual Members, $1 each	4 00
Oct.	3.	From W. Jacob Parker	107 13
		Total amount received	$797 05
		Total amount paid out	560 15
		Balance on hand	$236 90

57.		CR.	
ch	26.	Paid W. J. Parker for Alabama Bible Society	$ 10 00
	19.	" Depository Agent by order of Ex. Board	120 00
	4.	" " " " " "	145 00
	3.	" " " " " "	178 09
	3.	" to S. Madison, Colport	

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. The name of this organization shall be **The Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society.**

ART. 2. The object of this Society shall be to promote the circulation of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books, and the supplying of Sabbath School Libraries within the bounds of the Bethel Baptist Association and elsewhere, through such bodies as the Society may from time to time select.

ART. 3. The Society shall be composed of Annual Members, who contribute not less than one dollar annually to the funds of the Society; of *Life* Members who contribute ten dollars at any one time, and *Life* Directors who contribute fifty dollars at any one time, and Delegates from Auxiliary Societies and Churches contributing to the funds of this Society, as hereinafter specified.

ART. 4. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, four Vice Presidents, (one from each District in the Association) a Secretary, a Treasurer and five Managers, who shall be chosen at each Regular Annual Meeting, and shall be members of good standing in some Church belonging to the Bethel Baptist Association. The duties of these Officers shall be such as usually devolve on like officers in similar bodies.

ART. 5. The Board of Managers shall have power to establish a Book Depository, appoint a Depository Agent, Solicitors and Colporteurs, under such regulations as the Society shall prescribe, and shall manage such other business as may be entrusted to them by the Society.

ART. 6. The Society shall hold Quarterly Meetings at the time and place of the District Meetings; and shall hold its Annual Meetings at the same time and place at which the Bethel Baptist Association meets.

ART. 7. Auxiliary Societies and Churches shall be entitled to one delegate in the Annual Meeting for every five dollars contributed during the year immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, and to one delegate in the Quarterly Meeting for every two dollars contributed to the funds of the Society since the previous Quarterly Meeting.

ART. 8. This Constitution may be amended only by a vote of two-thir of the members present at an Annual Meeting.